

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A print controller comprising:

a reception unit that receives a plurality of print data sets for print jobs from a client device;

a storage unit that serially stores the print data in a spool region by print job;

a print data manager that associates the print data sets stored in the spool region with print management information that includes a predetermined condition;

a judgment unit that judges whether or not total data size of print data sets stored in the spool region exceeds a preset reference data size; and

a print data eraser that, when the judgment unit judges that the total data size exceeds the reference data size, selects a print data set according to the predetermined condition of the print management information associated with each print data set, and erases the selected print data set from the spool region.

15. (Original) A print controller as claimed in claim 14, wherein the judgment unit adds data size of each print data set stored in the spool region to calculate the total data size, and judges by comparing the total size with the reference data size.

16. (Original) A print controller as claimed in claim 14, wherein the judgment unit sets a reference data set number representing how many data sets are assumed to be required to match the reference data size, and judging whether the number of print data sets stored in the spool region exceeds the reference data set number.

17. (Original) A print controller as claimed in claim 14, wherein the print data manager associates the print data sets with spool time information in the print management

information, the spool time information indicating spool time when each print data set was stored in the spool region, the print data eraser selecting a print data set with an earliest spool time according to the spool time information and erasing the selected print data set.

18. (Original) A print controller as claimed in claim 14, wherein the print data manager associates the print data sets with last print time information in the print management information, the last print time information indicating print time when a print operation was last performed for each print data set, the print data eraser selecting a print data set with an earliest print time according to the last print time information and erasing the selected print data set.

19. (Original) A print controller as claimed in claim 14, wherein the print data manager associates the print data sets with erasable time information in the print management information, the erasable time information designating erase times after which corresponding print data sets can be erased, the print data eraser selecting a print data set with an exceeded erase time or with an earliest erase time and erasing the selected print data.

20. (Original) A printing system comprising:

a client device for handling a plurality of print data sets for print jobs;

a print controller connected to the client device, wherein:

the client device includes a print data transmission unit for transmitting the plurality of print data sets to the print controller; and

the print controller includes:

a reception unit that receives the plurality of print data sets from the client device;

a storage unit that serially stores the print data in a spool region by print job;

a print data manager that associates the print data sets stored in the spool region with print management information that includes a predetermined condition;

a judgment unit that judges whether or not total data size of print data sets stored in the spool region exceeds a preset reference data size; and
a print data eraser that, when the judgment unit judges that the total data size exceeds the reference data size, selects a print data set according to the predetermined condition of the print management information associated with each print data set, and erases the selected print data set from the spool region.

21. (Original) A program storage medium capable of being read by a computer of a printing system that includes a client device and a print controller, the client device handling a plurality of print data sets for print jobs, the print controller being connected to the client device and controlling print processes using the plurality of print data sets, the program comprising:

a program of transmitting, from the client device, the plurality of print data sets to the print controller;

a program of receiving, at the print controller, the plurality of print data sets from the client device;

a program of serially storing the received print data sets by print job in a spool region of the print controller;

a program of associating the print data sets stored in the spool region with print management information that includes a predetermined condition;

a program of judging whether or not total data size of print data sets stored in the spool region exceeds a preset reference data size;

a program of selecting a print data set according to the predetermined condition of the print management information associated with each print data set when the judgment unit judges that the total data size exceeds the reference data size; and

a program of erasing the selected print data set from the spool region.

22-27. (Canceled)